

KEEPING IN TOUCH

NEWS AND NOTES

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICES

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029

REMINDER

October 4, 1981 is Fellowship Sunday. On this day we celebrate the founding of Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles, the first MCC, and the founding of the Universal Fellowship. Materials for this celebration have been sent to every local church. We are asking each church to take up a love offering for the work and program of the Fellowship as voted on by the 1981 General Conference in Houston, Texas. Our goal for this offering Fellowship wide is \$50,000. We can do it!

OUR NEW ELDER, MR. MICHAEL MANK:

Congratulations to the newest member of the Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Mr. Mank is a member of MCC San Francisco and Workshop Coordinator of MCC Humboldt, in Northern California. He has served as District Treasurer of the Northwest District and is now Treasurer of the Fellowship. His address is 38 Bonview, San Francisco, California. Please remember our newest Elder (and the whole Board) in your prayers.

BY-LAWS AVAILABLE

The newly revised UFMCC By-Laws will be available by October 15, 1981. Please order them through the Church Services Department.

JANUARY 1982 STRATEGY & PLANNING MEETING IN LOS ANGELES - PLAN NOW!

The Board of Elders will meet with the District Coordinators, Lay Representatives, Fellowship Department and Commission Chairs and staff January 19-23, 1982, in Los Angeles. Please start planning now for the meeting. Each District is being assessed \$500 to cover the costs for 2 persons to fly to the meeting. If you will need housing, please contact the Clerk of the Board of Elders, in writing, no later than December 1, 1981. The agenda proposed for that meeting will be planned by the Elders at our October meeting so that all will have time to prepare.

"WHO IS NORMAL?"

Many of you saw buttons with this phrase on it at General Conference. The buttons were distributed by Mr. John Kellerman, our guest speaker whom we honored for this International Year of the Disabled. Your church may now order these buttons in bulk orders (25 or more) for 50 cents apiece (half price). All proceeds will go to Mr. Kellerman for his important work. You may order them through our Church Services Department.

REFERENCE: All UFMCC Commissions, Committees, Departments and their Chairs:

By-Laws Committee: c/o UFMCC. A new Chair will be appointed to replace Elder Michael Mank.

Commission on Government Structures and Systems: Rev. Don Eastman, Chair, c/o MCC Dallas, Texas.

Department of Christian Social Action: Mr. R. Adam DeBaugh, Chair, 1800 Belvedere Blvd., Silver Springs, Maryland 20902. Phone: 301-593-5518.

Commission on Faith, Fellowship and Order: c/o UFMCC. New Chair will be appointed to replace resigned Chair.

Committee on Church Hymnody: Dr. Richard Follett and Mr. Jim Mitulski, c/o UFMCC.

Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee: Rev. Larry Uhrig, Chair, c/o MCC Washington, DC.

Sub-Committee on Concerns: Rev. Jim Glyer, c/o MCC Portland, Oregon.

Sub-Committee on Standards: Rev. Valerie Bouchard, c/o MCC Good Shepherd Parish, Chicago, Illinois.

Office of Institutional Ministry: Send all correspondence to MCC Sacramento, California.

Samaritan Theological Institute: Dr. Richard Follett, c/o STI, UFMCC Offices.

Task Force on Media Ministry: Mr. Bob Johnson, c/o MCC Washington, DC.

Department of Ecumenical Relations: Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, Mr. Adam DeBaugh, Co-Chairs, 1800 Belvedere Blvd., Silver Springs, Maryland 20902.

Commission on Innovative Ministries: Rev. George McDermott, Chair, c/o MCC Providence, Rhode Island.

Department of Race Relations: Director, Rev. Renee McCoy, c/o MCC New York.

Task Force on Substance Abuse: c/o the Board of Elders, UFMCC Offices.

Board of World Church Extension: Rev. Elder Jean White, London, England.

Commission on the Laity: Chair Mr. Alan Fox, 705 - 7th Street S.E., Washington D.C. 20003.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

Please send ALL requests for Credentialing materials to the Fellowship Offices.

Proficiency Exams Information for Exegesis. Part of Bible exam, 1982.

O.T. - Genesis

N.T. - Gospel of John

Plan on taking test in late February, 1982. More details will be in the In Unity Article.

The new UFMCC Directory will be available October 15, 1981. All UFMCC churches should be receiving one copy free. If you have not received yours by October 30 please contact the Fellowship Offices.

IN TRANSITION:

- Rev. Jim Glyer has been elected pastor of MCC Portland, Oregon.
- Rev. Bonnie Daniel has been elected interim pastor of Pikes Peak MCC, Colorado Springs.
- Rev. Joyce Setala has been elected interim pastor of Christ the Liberator, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Rev. Delores Berry has been elected interim pastor of Good Samaritan MCC, Norfolk, Virginia and Worship Coordinator of MCC Peninsula, Newport News, Virginia.
- Rev. Lee Carlton has been elected interim pastor of MCC of the Palms, Ft. Meyers, Florida.
- Rev. Karen Linstrom has been appointed acting District Coordinator of Australia.
- Rev. Joseph Gilbert has been elected Interim Pastor of MCC St. Petersburg.

CHURCH EXTENSION NEWS

- Mr. Dennis Tracy, formerly residing in Germany, is the newest member of the Western Europe Church Extension Committee which oversees church development.
- Rev. Elder Jean White is now working full time for UFMCC World Church Extension, out of an office in her home. Please pray for her!

NEW CHURCH GROUPS SINCE GENERAL CONFERENCE

- MCC Montgomery, Alabama
- MCC Rochester, New York
- MCC Durham, United Kingdom

TOP 20 TITHES Received by 7/15/81 (In Per Capita Giving)

Tacoma, WA.	\$21.10
San Diego, CA	17.71
Wichita, KS	15.85
MCC of the Desert, Cathedral City, CA	14.74
St. John's, Raleigh, NC.	13.65
Nashville, TN	13.01
MCC in the Valley, No. Hollywood, CA.	12.04
Church of New Hope, Waterloo, IA.	11.25
Memphis, TN	11.05
St. Louis, MO.	10.69
East Bay, Oakland, CA.	10.62
Fayetteville, NC	10.55
Jacksonville, FL	10.41
Omaha, NB	10.14
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	9.81
Long Beach, CA	9.65
Oceanside, CA	9.56
Tri-Cities, WA.	9.34
Oasis, Tempe, AZ	9.31
Agape MCC, Ft. Worth, TX.	8.92

TOP 20 TITHES Received by 8/15/81

San Diego, CA	\$672.95
Long Beach, CA	671.50
No. Hollywood, CA	466.99
Kansas City, MO	376.04
Wichita, KS	361.38
San Jose, CA	320.35
Tampa, FL	315.05
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	313.94
St. Louis, MO	312.23
Denver, CO	292.29
Good Shepherd Parish, Chicago, IL.	273.51
Sydney, NSW Australia.	252.83
Jacksonville, FL	220.75
Ft. Worth, TX.	213.96
Tacoma, WA.	202.51
San Antonio, TX.	197.60
Nashville, TN	191.27
New York, NY	189.29
Casa de Cristo, Phoenix, AZ	183.39
Melbourne, Australia	171.29

TOP 20 TITHES Received by 9/15/81

Houston, TX	\$1,108.17
Los Angeles, CA	733.37
Long Beach, CA	706.8
San Diego, CA	643.41
No. Hollywood, CA	485.76
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	420.81
Washington, DC	372.31
Good Shepherd Parish, Chicago, IL.	358.00
Kansas City, MO	348.46
Seattle, WA	326.28
Toronto, ONT	314.31
San Jose, CA	313.89
Ft. Worth, TX.	292.37
Wichita, KS	272.68
Tampa, FL	252.00
Detroit, MI.	232.18
Jacksonville, FL	216.66
Sydney, Australia	210.66
San Antonio, TX.	209.38
Nashville, TN	206.22

UFMCC TRIAL HYMNAL AVAILABLE

The UFMCC Trial Hymnal is now available from the Fellowship Offices, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029. The cost for the hymnal is:

Single copy - \$4.50
10 or more copies - \$4.00

ORDER NOW

KEEPING

NEWS AND NOTES

DECEMBER 1980



IN TOUCH

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICE

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029

Good Shepherd Parish MCC reports the following change:

As you may know, Good Shepherd has moved the Church Office from our former Loop location to the U.C.C. building where we have been worshipping for some years now. This is an exciting move for us, since we are now completely in one space, in the heart of New Town.

The Office was formerly at 343 S. Dearborn; and we had Post Office Box 2392. Mail is being forwarded from the Dearborn address. However, since it's difficult to get a P.O. Box in Chicago, Rev. Jay Deacon has decided to keep it for The Gay Christian stuff, if necessary, etc. However, *all* mail to Good Shepherd, Jay, The Gay Christian, whatever, should really be addressed to 615 W. Wellington, 60657. Otherwise, it could sit in the P.O. Box until someone goes down there to check. Our new phone number is (312) 472-8708.



CONGRATULATIONS on moving into your new facilities (See In Unity for details):

MCC Toronto, Ontario
MCC Birmingham, England
De Colores MCC, Canoga Park, CA



CORRECTION

Due to the fact that Illinois is *not* an ERA state, the Elders have changed the location of our 1981 International Ministers Conference, March 23-26, to Dallas, Texas. Stay tuned for more information.



NEW GROUPS

MCC Humbolt, CA
Four Corners MCC, Farmington, New Mexico

TOP 20 TITHES

Received by 11/15/80
(Amount in Dollars)

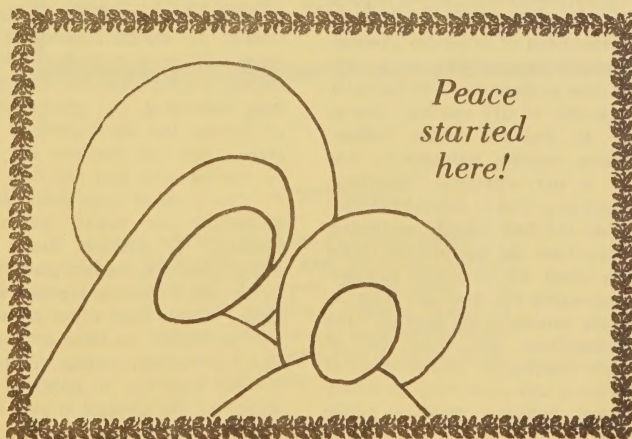
Dallas, TX	\$864.51
Houston, TX	853.99
Long Beach, CA	727.06
No. Hollywood, CA	458.69
San Diego, CA	454.69
Denver, CO	356.60
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	287.37
Wichita, KS	250.13
Detroit, MI	239.19
Toronto, ONT	225.69
Sydney, Australia	219.59
Baltimore, MD	217.01
St. Louis, MO	212.58
Columbia, SC	203.79
Pomona Valley, CA	199.66
San Jose, CA	195.27
East Bay, CA	193.43
Casa de Cristo	
Phoenix, AZ	192.59
Austin, TX	191.13
Sacramento, CA	188.76

TOP 20 TITHES

in per capita giving
(based on average attendance
records as of 11/15/80)

Worcester, MA	\$16.2
De Colores	
Canoga Park, CA	15.1
East Bay	
Oakland, CA	14.6
Columbia, SC	13.7
Wichita, KS	12.0
Austin, TX	11.7
Atlantic City, NJ	11.3
Oasis	
Phoenix, AZ	11.3
Northeast in Newcastle,	
United Kingdom	10.8
San Diego, CA	10.5
Edmonton, Alberta	10.4
Minneapolis, MN	10.2
New Orleans, LA	9.9
Baltimore, MD	9.2
Calvary	
Redwood City, CA	9.0
Louisville, KY	9.0
Princeton, NJ	8.9
Philadelphia, PA	8.7
Vancouver, BC	8.6
No. Hollywood, CA	8.6

STAY TUNED for important information concerning the upcoming 1981 General Conference X in Houston, Texas.



PRESS RELEASE...

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches announced today that the Cuban Refugee Relief Project has essentially completed Phase I of its three-phase program. Phase I has included:

Through its Los Angeles Office, the direct settlement of over 600 refugees was completed and major assistance was given to Church World Service in settling over 2,000 refugees. The cost to settle each person was \$24.67.

There were visitations of all refugee camps, for counselling, placement, etc.

All sponsors and Churches were provided with packets providing follow-up sponsor information.

U.F.M.C.C. distributed tens of thousands of fliers to gay refugees regarding its willingness to help.

Emergency relief was provided (food, clothing, housing, transportation), re-settlement; and crisis counseling by phone and in person.

Those working on the project kept a detailed program, correspondence and financial records.

In addition there has been ongoing work with Resettlement Agencies, State Department and U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The U.F.M.C.C. is not soliciting new sponsors at this time, because essentially they believe they have settled (on a first-time basis) the majority of persons they are going to be able to settle due to the fact that 1) the government is now paying the permanent resettlement agencies to settle the remaining Cubans and 2) it is the

experience of U.F.M.C.C. that most of those in the camps have problems too severe for U.F.M.C.C. to handle the way they handled the first wave of refugees. They will, however, continue to work with Church World Service on this, but on a much smaller basis.

The Fellowship is now entering into Phase II of its Relief Operation which will include maintaining one full-time person at its L.A. office as Project Director whose responsibilities are: 1) To handle the remainder of first-time resettlement out of Fort Chaffee. 2) To continue to work on re-settling those who have had problems with their first sponsors, including those placed through other agencies. 3) To be a resource for the Fellowship Churches who are involved with Cuban resettlement. At the present time, the person filling this position is Mr. John Chasteen.

Also a part of Phase II is a residential center in Los Angeles, "La Mirada House," currently in formation, and presently housing about 14 Cuban refugees at one time. The house exists to provide temporary housing, food, clothing and systems assistance for refugees U.F.M.C.C. cannot otherwise place in sponsor homes. The home has a present staff of a Director (responsible to the Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches) and a housekeeper/manager. Local Fellowship Churches are aiding in providing programs in English, job counselling, etc. Aside from being an emergency shelter, the actual long-range plans for the house are still being worked out. The house and all operations are

funded by the Cuban Relief Fund. Mr. Pete Taylor of Metropolitan Community Church in the Valley, North Hollywood, CA, is the current Director.

Phase III. During the next calendar year, U.F.M.C.C. is expecting to take on the following responsibilities in relation to refugee resettlement:

There is a need to provide long-range assistance to gay and lesbian refugees in the determination of their status in the U.S. This means to develop an on-going relationship with the State Department and Immigration & Naturalization Service.

U.F.M.C.C. needs to continue to update sponsors on all relevant information and resources.

The Fellowship is determined to explore the feasibility of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches being named a permanent resettlement agency for lesbians and gay men by the State Department.

The Fellowship has been asked to assist in the resettlement of Haitians which they plan to do.

There will also be a need to evaluate the "La Mirada House" project and explore similar long-range assistance plans.

In order to do all these things, the Cuban Relief Fund will continue to solicit funds, and to regularly make public progress reports and financial statements.

(Copies of detailed 6 month financial report are available upon request from UFMCC Offices.)

----- ATTENTION: HELP WANTED -----

We need your help in an important project for our Fellowship. We are seeking qualified candidates for the position of Administrator/Dean of Samaritan Theological Institute. The candidate chosen will work half time as Executive Administrator for all branches of STI and half time as Dean of the Resident Senior College. The position requires residence in Los Angeles. In our expanding Fellowship, we must rely upon you to help us publicize this position and find suitable candidates.

We now have the resources to create a position which will be critical in assisting and expanding the staff and in implementing the policies of the Regents. The Administrator/Dean will spend half of his/her time directing all four divisions of STI, developing and supervising the library and research facilities, directing public

relations and fund raising, and representing STI in ecumenical and community relations. As Dean of the Resident Senior College, the successful candidate will also spend half time in curriculum development, faculty development and evaluation, student counseling, and general supervision of records and administration. As STI grows, these two positions will eventually be divided into two full time positions.

The position is presently budgeted at \$1,000.00 per month which includes housing. In addition, health insurance in the Fellowship medical plan will be paid. Reasonable relocation expenses will also be paid. The position offers great challenge and potential. As these are realized, the salary and benefit package will be increased.

We urge you to publicize the availability of this position in your area. Feel

free to contact and suggest to us appropriate candidates. Our qualifications require that the candidate be an active member in a Metropolitan Community Church, possess a graduate degree in education and/or administration in the theological field from a recognized educational institution, have some experience in the field, and be well and favorably known in his/her profession and community.

STI is an equal opportunity employer. Resumes and/or recommendations should be sent to:

The Search Committee/Board of Regents
Samaritan Theological Institute
5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 104
Los Angeles, CA 90029

KEEPING

NEWS AND NOTES



IN TOUCH

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICE

NOVEMBER 1980

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029

New Groups . . .

MCC Albuquerque is working with new groups in Durango, CO and Farmington, New Mexico.



MCC Quincy is conducting a feasibility study in Springfield, Illinois, under the direction of exhorter Karon Van Gelder.



New groups beginning . . .

ICM Latina - Iglesia de la Comunidad Metropolitana Latina began meeting October 12, 1980, at the chapel of MCC - Los Angeles. Rev. Jose Mojica is the facilitator. ICM Cristo Rey, Miami, will hold its first service November 2, 1980. Rev. Jose Cruz is the facilitator.



MCC Jacksonville dedicated its new building October 12, 1980. Rev. Elder John Hose officiated. The new building is located at 301 Druid Street, Jacksonville.



Rev. Ron Pannel was ordained October 5, 1980 by Rev. Elder Freda Smith and Rev. Larry Uhrig in Baltimore, MD. Rev. Brenda Cisneros-Hunt was ordained October 5, 1980, by Rev. James Sandmire in Detroit, MI. Congratulations!



MCC Dallas reports that the Dallas Yellow Pages now show UFMCC as a denomination with MCC Dallas listed "there-under." Bill Fry, the Dallas Administrative Assistant was persistent (and it worked!).



Rev. Ken Storer has been elected interim pastor of MCC Tacoma, Washington.



Welcome home to the U.S. Rev. David Kromer and Rev. Stan Harris. David and Stan helped re-establish MCC in Auckland, NZ. They can be reached c/o UFMCC.



Rev. Johannes Kuiper was installed as pastor of MCC Worcester, MA, October 19, 1980, at the conclusion of the Northeast District Conference. Congratulations Jon and MCC Worcester!

TOP 20 TITHES Received by 9/15/80 (Amount in Dollars)

Houston, TX	\$757.98
San Francisco, CA	749.42
Dallas, TX	669.69
Los Angeles, CA	641.39
San Diego, CA	536.40
MCC in the Valley	
No. Hollywood, CA	522.07
Washington, DC	447.30
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	361.35
Portland, OR	354.58
San Jose, CA	334.73
Wichita, KS	284.81
Pomona Valley, CA	257.46
Detroit, MI	230.70
Santa Ana, CA	221.51
Toronto, ONT	215.07
Sydney, AUST	200.79
New Freedom	
Evangelistic Team	194.90
Cincinnati, OH	179.40
Vancouver, BC	169.66
Melbourne, AUST	163.65

TOP 20 TITHES in per capita giving (based on average attendance records as of 9/15/80)

Fresno, CA	\$26.9
Monterey Peninsula, CA	17.0
Richmond, VA	16.7
San Jose, CA	13.9
De Colores	
Canoga Park, CA	13.1
San Diego, CA	12.6
Wichita, KS	11.4
Pomona Valley, CA	10.7
Anaheim, CA	10.1
New Orleans, LA	10.1
East Bay	
Oakland, CA	9.7
Louisville, KY	9.7
Melbourne, AUST	9.7
Atlantic City, NJ	9.6
No. Hollywood, CA	9.5
Oklahoma City, OK	9.2
Vancouver, BC	8.8
Baltimore, MD	8.7
Minneapolis, MN	8.6
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	8.6
Christ Chapel	
Santa Ana, CA	8.6

THE NEXT UFMCC PROFICIENCY EXAMS FOR MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES WILL BE GIVEN FEBRUARY 20 AND 21, 1981, 10 LOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED. PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!

ATTENTION

LAY DELEGATES, CLERGY AND CONGREGATIONS: Stay tuned for the first draft of the report of the Elders Task Force on Inclusive Language. Each lay delegate and minister to General Conference will receive a copy for local church discussions and feedback.



Now for a limited time we are offering a special subscription
for the magazines of UFMCC.
Enjoy articles and photos of the Fellowship, family news
in the pages of *IN UNITY*.
Also available is *THE GAY CHRISTIAN*,
the journal of provocative thought in and around our Fellowship.
Subscribe now and get *IN UNITY* for only six dollars a year
or
THE GAY CHRISTIAN for only four dollars a year.
BOTH for only ten dollars a year.

SPECIAL OFFER

Subscribe to both
THE GAY CHRISTIAN and *IN UNITY*
and receive a free book.

For a dual subscription you can have your choice of either
GAY LIFE STYLES or *HUMAN RIGHTS OR HOMOPHOBIA*.

Subscribe now and save.

UFMCC Offices
5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304
Los Angeles, California 90029

YES Please send a 1981 subscription to the
following magazine(s) at these special Christmas
rates:

- ☐ *IN UNITY* (6 issues \$6)
- ☐ *THE GAY CHRISTIAN* (4 issues \$4)
- ☐ BOTH magazines (\$10)

- * ☐ *Gay Lifestyles*
- * ☐ *Human Rights Or Homophobia*

* Dual subscription only. Choose one (1)

TO:

Name: _____

Address: _____

My check for the total amount is made out to
UFMCC and is enclosed. California residents
add 6% sales tax.

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Los Angeles, California 90029

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OCTOBER 1980



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FELLOWSHIP FLASHES

Rev. Renee Hein to Auckland, NZ, MCC of the Resurrection, as assistant pastor; Rev. Randall Hill to Truth Chapel MCC, Tucson, Arizona as interim pastor; Rev. Peter J. Riley, to interim pastor MCC All-Saints, Hollywood, CA; Rev. Jamie McAlister to MCC Charlotte, NC; Rev. Jennie Bull appointed new Outreach Minister, MCC Washington.



Rev. Jim Glyer will be representing the UFMCC at the meeting of the NCC Family Ministries and Human Sexuality Commission in New York this October; and Rev. Karen Ziegler will represent the UFMCC at the NCC Commission on Women in Ministry, also in New York in October.



New Study Groups:
Flint, MI (Redeemer MCC)
Lubbock, TX

DON'T FORGET
TO CELEBRATE
FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY
THIS OCTOBER.

TOP 20 TITHES

Received by 8/15/80

(Amount in Dollars)

MCC Resurrection	
Houston, TX	\$1,108.29
San Francisco, CA	954.64
Dallas, TX	942.81
Los Angeles, CA	896.36
San Diego, CA	690.90
MCC in the Valley	
No. Hollywood, CA	475.77
Long Beach, CA	414.57
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	379.95
Toronto, ONT	338.89
Wichita, KS	273.62
Detroit, MI	269.98
Pomona Valley, CA	238.89
Vancouver, BC	237.36
Melbourne, Aust.	231.74
San Antonio, TX	225.25
Christ MCC	
Miami, FL	224.94
Baltimore, MD	220.60
De Colores MCC	
Canoga Park, CA	212.53
MCC New York	
New York, NY	187.96
Casa de Cristo	
Phoenix, AZ	184.69

TOP 20 TITHES

in per capita giving

(based on average attendance records as of 8/15/80)

De Colores	
Canoga Park, CA	22.0
New Orleans, LA	14.4
Monterey Peninsula, CA	13.2
MCC of the Desert	
Cathedral City, CA	13.0
San Bernardino, CA	11.1
Key West, FL	11.1
San Diego, CA	10.8
Louisville, KY	10.8
Princeton, NJ	10.7
Salem, OR	10.5
Richmond, VA	10.3
Calvary	
Redwood City, CA	10.1
Minneapolis, MN	10.1
Melbourne, Australia	9.6
Wichita, KS	9.4
Christ MCC	
Miami, FL	9.1
San Antonio, TX	8.8
Long Beach, CA	8.8
Vancouver, B.C.	8.5
Pomona, CA	8.0
Toronto, ONT	8.0

SEPTEMBER 1980 ELDERS MEETING UPDATE

- ★ Elders began long-range plans for District expansion, World Church Extension, Christian Education, etc.
- ★ New understanding of "Advisory Letters" adopted. (See Elders Minutes, September, 1980)
- ★ Pikes Peak (Colorado Springs, CO) MCC, Springfield (MO) Family MCC, MCC of the Resurrection (Auckland, NZ) and Calvary (Redwood City, CA) MCC were all approved for Mission status.
- ★ Fellowship hires "Americom," a consulting and fund-raising firm to help us plan to reach goals.
- ★ Created "UFMCC Refugee Resettlement and Adoption Agency" to continue relief efforts and to become a permanent resettlement agency in the U.S. specializing in the needs of gay men and lesbians.
- ★ 1980-81 Budget approved. (Details in Elders Minutes, September 1980)
- ★ Dates for simultaneous meetings of the Commission on Government Structures and Systems and the MCAC in Dallas, January 12-17, 1981.
- ★ Rev. Jeff Pulling and Ms. Jean Gralley were appointed Worship Directors/Planners for General Conference in Houston, 1981.
- ★ There will be ONE Ministers Conference, March 23-26, 1981 in Chicago, Illinois. Rev's. Wilson and Archart will be planning the Conference.
- ★ The Next Elders Meeting will be January 8-15, 1981.

★★★★★

(Minutes are available from the Fellowship Offices for \$4.00.)

REMINDER TO UFMCC MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES:

APPLICATIONS FOR INITIAL LICENSE MUST BE FILED IN TRIPLICATE,
(FORM B-066, AVAILABLE AT THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICES)
WITH THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR, BY NOVEMBER 30, 1980.
(FOR MORE DETAILS, REQUEST UFMCC MINISTERS MANUAL,
\$2.95 FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICES.)

HAVE YOU MOVED?

..... CHANGED PHONE NUMBER?

..... CHANGED POST OFFICE BOX?

PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY!

NAME.....

OLD ADDRESS

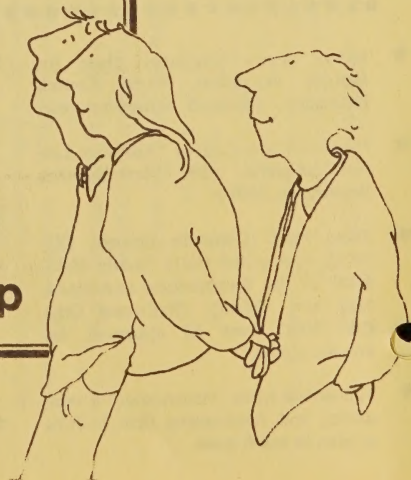
NEW ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER.....

**Does Your Church Have
A
UFMCC
BULLETIN
BOARD
?**



It closes the Communication Gap



KEEPING

NEWS AND NOTES

SEPTEMBER 1980



IN TOUCH

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICE

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029

STI offers a 27 page Bibliography covering subjects such as the Bible, Ministry to the Church, Sexuality and the Scriptures, Theology, Ethics, Prayer, Worship, Homosexuality, etc.

The Bibliography, prepared by the Faculty of STI, is available by writing STI, Suite 104, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A. 90029. The cost is \$2.00 percopy. (In U.S. funds, please!!!)



Please stay tuned for special Fellowship materials regarding "Fellowship Sunday" in October.



The next Board of Elders meeting is September 15 - 19 in Los Angeles, CA.



Congratulations to the newly licensed ministers of The Hispanic Americas Extension Area:

Rev. Jose Cruz-Velez
Rev. Jose Parets



ATTENTION: UFMCC Pastors and Christian Education Leaders!

Need some good resources for Youth Groups?

Write to: Group
Box 481
Loveland, CO 80537

TOP 20 TITHES Received by 8/15/80 (Amount in dollars)

Dallas, TX	\$964.37
Resurrection	
Houston, TX	952.32
San Francisco, CA	837.62
Los Angeles, CA	710.36
San Diego, CA	539.45
The Valley	
No. Hollywood, CA	452.84
Washington, D.C.	415.60
The Rockies	
Denver, CO	303.17
New Freedom	
Evangelistic Team	258.59
Wichita, KS	232.35
San Jose, CA	220.68
Casa de Cristo	
Phoenix, AZ	193.35
De Colores	
Canoga Park, CA	186.56
Jacksonville, FL	177.60
New York City, NY	174.13
Baltimore, MD	169.12
Vancouver, B.C.	168.07
Detroit, MI	159.85
Christ MCC	
Miami, FL	156.69
Pittsburgh, PA	145.57

TOP 20 TITHES in per capita giving (based on average attendance records as of 8/15/80)

De Colores	
Canoga Park, CA	18.6
Columbia, SC	14.9
MCC of the Desert	
Cathedral City, CA	14.3
Richmond, VA	12.5
Agape	
Ft. Worth, TX	11.5
The Valley	
No. Hollywood, CA	11.5
Monterey Peninsula, CA	10.9
San Diego, CA	10.8
East Bay, CA	10.2
Trinity	
San Bernardino, CA	10.1
Vancouver, B.C.	9.7
Dallas, TX	9.5
Fayetteville, NC	9.3
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	9.2
Salem, OR	9.1
Wichita, KS	8.8
Louisville, KY	8.3
Princeton, NJ	8.2
San Jose, CA	8.2

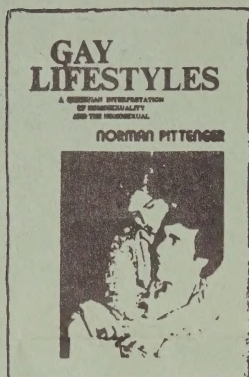
The UFMCC Ministers' Manual is now available. All UFMCC ministers will receive a free copy. All others may purchase it for \$2.95 apiece.

LESBIAN AND GAY CUBAN REFUGEES

STILL NEED YOUR HELP.
IF YOU CAN HELP - OR FOR MORE
INFORMATION - CALL : 464-5100



CLOSE OUT SALE!



★ **"GAY LIFESTYLES"**
by Norman Pittinger

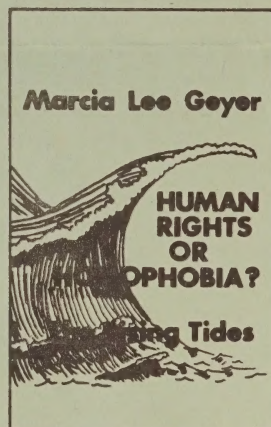
A reconciliation of homosexuality and Christianity by the world famous author of "Love and Control In Sexuality", "Making Sexuality Human", and some sixty-eight other books.

\$2.95 Softbound
\$4.95 Hardbound

★ **"Human Rights or Homophobia?"**
by Marcia Lee Geyer

A careful investigation of the nature of Homophobia, an analysis of some of the writings of Anita Bryant and some of the reasons for the sickness of homophobia.

\$1.25 Softbound



★ **"Familiar Faces, Hidden Lives"**
by Howard Brown, M.D.

\$2.95 Softbound

★ Conference Tapes
\$3.00 each

Quantity

(ORDER FORM)

- ☐ Gay Lifestyles \$2.95 Softbound
- ☐ Gay Lifestyles \$4.95 Hardbound
- ☐ Familiar Faces, Hidden Lives \$2.95 Softbound
- ☐ Human Rights or Homophobia \$1.25 Softbound
- ★
- ☐ Rev. Troy D. Perry
- ☐ Rev. Nancy Wilson
- ☐ Rev. John Hose
- ☐ Rev. Jean White
- ☐ Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey
- ☐ Rev. Charlie Arehart

- ☐ Rev. Lucia Chappelle *sold out*
- ☐ Rev. Jim Dykes
- ☐ Rev. David Gunter
- ☐ Rev. Ed Hougren
- ☐ Rev. James Sandmire
- ☐ Rev. Willie Smith
- ☐ Rev. Larry Uhrig
- ☐ Ms. Midge Costanza
- ☐ Ms. Rosalind Rinker *sold out*

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP: _____

My check for the total amount is made out to UFMCC and is enclosed.

California residents please add 6% sales tax.

UFMCC 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304 Los Angeles, CA 90029

KEEPING

NEWS AND NOTES

AUGUST 1980



IN TOUCH

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICE

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029

AVAILABLE FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICES

- * "How to Start a Study Group" Resource Packet - free to all Study Groups, otherwise \$3.00.
- * "Communication Skills For Christians" - A Christian Education Program by Claudia Vierra.
- * "Operation Resurrection" - A manual.
- * List of resources for pulpit committees.
- * "UFMCC Today," "What Is MCC" and "Homosexuality and the Bible" - In Spanish; "UFMCC Today" in Portuguese.

=====

APOLOGIES for omitting MCC Thames Valley, United Kingdom, in our list of contributors to World Church Extension. Thank you, Thames Valley!

=====

WE HAVE ONLY 200 copies left of Rev. Perry's book, "The Lord Is My Shepherd And Knows I'm Gay." Orders must be prepaid, \$9.70 apiece including postage and handling. Thank you.

=====

WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE that "The Minister's Manual," prepared by the MCAC, will be sent to all ministers in September. Anyone else may purchase it for \$2.95 (plus postage outside of the U.S.). The manual contains ALL procedures and requirements for licensing, re-licensing and ordination for Districts and Church Extension Areas.

=====

MCC TALLAHASSEE was arsoned on July 21, 1980. No one was injured and the building was not structurally damaged. However, most of the contents (personal and church supplies) were destroyed. Rev. Bob Angell reported that they had apprehended the person who set the fires.

TOP 20 TITHES Received by 7/15/80 (Amount in Dollars)

Los Angeles, CA	\$1,073.82
Houston, TX	1,004.18
Dallas, TX	832.70
No. Hollywood, CA	589.31
Portland, OR	566.56
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	517.37
Washington, DC	428.00
Chicago (GSP), IL	424.70
Denver, CO	391.55
New York, NY	319.58
West Bay, CA	274.23
Canoga Park, CA	263.38
San Jose, CA	263.23
Omaha, NE	260.56
Wichita, KS	256.88
St. Louis, MO	216.05
Baltimore, MD	202.48
Nashville, TN	198.83
Philadelphia, PA	180.81
Richmond, VA	177.64

TOP 20 TITHES in per capita giving (based on average attendance records as of 7/15/80)

Canoga Park, CA	\$20.2
San Bernardino, CA	17.4
West Bay, CA	15.6
Fayetteville, NC	14.1
Waterloo, IA	13.7
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	12.2
Santa Ana, CA	11.4
Cathedral City, CA	11.1
Richmond, VA	11.1
Louisville, KY	10.8
Columbia, SC	10.4
Denver, CO	10.3
No. Hollywood, CA	10.1
Nashville, TN	9.9
Austin, TX	9.8
Ventura, CA	9.8
Brooklyn, NY	9.5
Stockton, CA	9.0
Wichita, KS	9.0
New York, NY	8.9

COUPON

★ CHURCH IN A SLUMP?

★ NEED HELP IN SETTING GOALS,

★ REVITALIZING THE VISION?

★ PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE?

ORDER:

"OPERATION RESURRECTION"

RESOURCE PACKET \$1.50.

Name: _____

Address: _____

SPONSORS NEEDED DESPERATLY!

With an expected gay Cuban refugee population of 4,000 people we have a great task before us to be able to locate homes for all of those who ask us for one. At the present time we have placed over 300 refugees in homes across the country, and still have about 400 names in the office at this time awaiting placement. They are being sent to this office at a rate of about 20 - 30 per day, and we are not getting that many sponsors referred to us. As a result, there is developing great discouragement in the camps among the refugees, and there is now talk of suicide attempts, nightly attacks upon the gays by the non-gays, and a general morale problem.

We have been sending you newsletters about the situation, describing how you can help, what questions should be asked of potential sponsors, and what information we need in this office in order to use a sponsor. However, we get phone calls from pastors as well as members of congregations around this country who have been told that pastors do not know anything about how they can be a sponsor. In fact one person said that for over a month their pastor had been referring them to every place in the country but to this office. PLEASE READ YOUR MAIL!!!

We are getting profiles of the refugees which tell us the work history, age, color and any other personal information relevant to placement from all the camps here in this office. When we get your sponsor information, we match the refugees to those sponsors, and notify the camp where the refugee is located. After they receive this information, it takes them approximately 10 days to process the paper-work, and then they will call the sponsor directly to make arrangements for transportation to the sponsor's city. The government pays for transportation, and we have been advised that when the refugee arrives in the city, they are eligible for USDA Food Stamps upon application. There is no legal obligation to the sponsor in any way. It is just a moral obligation to provide room and board for the refugee until that person can get a job and get out on their own. No English has been taught in Cuba since 1959, so they do not know English, except as they have learned it in the camps and from their sponsor when they arrive in the sponsor's home.

The information we need on prospective sponsors is the following:

Name
Address
Phone Number
Social Security Number (Not released to any government agency)
Employer
Work Address
Work Phone Number
Church Affiliation
Pastor's Name
Church Phone
Whether you can sponsor a couple
Whether you can take either a black or white refugee
Whether you can take one who is somewhat effeminate
If there are any age restrictions
What job opportunities you may know of in the area (We will then try to send you someone with skills in that area.)

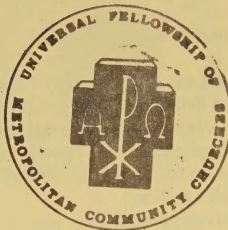
We certainly expect that whoever in your community does the sponsor screening will make sure that the prospective sponsor is not someone who is just looking for a free trick or free house labor. The sponsor is supposed to be someone who will help the refugee integrate into the community and be able to become independent as soon as possible by getting a job and earning money enough to get out on their own.

We also need money! We know that many of our churches have been raising money for the Cuban Relief Fund, but then are keeping it in their own location for possible future expenses of their own. With that kind of approach that leaves us without the funds necessary to pay for the \$700.00 per month phone bill, the postage and printing of these notices, the travel that Dale and Bob did to set up this program at each camp, and the expenses of the MCC people who have been working in each of the refugee camps to help us process our sponsorships through the local agencies. Please send us the money you may have in your fund, and if you find a need arises in your community, then we will be able to send you back what you need, and we will have a centralized accounting place for all monies collected and disbursed, as well as tax records for those individuals desiring to claim tax deductions for their donations.

THANK YOU

KEEPING

NEWS AND NOTES



IN TOUCH

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICE

JULY 1980

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029

MANY THANKS!

Congregations

Gifts to STI from
Samaritan Sunday 1980
(As of June 10, 1980)

MCC in the Valley	\$ 75.01
MCC Santa Barbara	24.70
All Saints' MCC	15.05
Oasis MCC	48.25
MCC Tampa	55.00
MCC San Antonio	8.45
MCC Indianapolis	12.00
MCC San Francisco	50.00
MCC Providence	28.63
MCC of the Resurrection (Auckland)	9.77
Truth Chapel	50.00
Oceanside MCC	58.48
De Colores MCC	281.56
MCC Iliamo	33.50
MCC San Francisco	152.39
MCC Columbia, SC	22.09
MCC Christ the Liberator	70.00
MCC of the Rockies	53.44
MCC Sioux Empire	12.00
MCC Hawaii	20.00
MCC of the Resurrection (Houston)	319.00
MCC St. Louis	19.86
Calvary MCC	55.00
West Bay MCC	400.00

ATTENTION

UFMCC Cuban Relief Fund: Rev. Bob Arthur, at UFMCC Headquarters, is now directing the Cuban Relief effort. (See reverse)

The Inclusive Language Task Force will meet July 22-25, 1980, in Washington D.C. Rev. Brent Hawkes, MCC Toronto, is the chair.

TOP 20 TITHES

Received by 6/15/80
(Amount in Dollars)

Los Angeles, CA	\$776.24
Houston, TX	727.17
No. Hollywood, CA	521.07
Long Beach, CA	517.49
Denver, CO	419.41
San Diego, CA	413.04
Portland, OR	407.56
Washington DC	386.21
Chicago (GSP), IL	353.46
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	328.92
Pomona, CA	246.89
Toronto, ONT	241.21
Cathedral City, CA	229.27
Boston, MA	219.91
San Jose, CA	214.25
Baltimore, MD	198.98
San Antonio, TX	194.89
Detroit, MI	191.26
Canoga Park, CA	
De Colores	186.26
Vancouver, BC	180.24

TOP 20 TITHES

in per capita giving
(based on average attendance
records as of 6/15/80)

Anaheim, CA	\$30.00
Anchorage, AK	23.80
Canoga Park, CA	
De Colores	16.50
Monterey Peninsula, CA	15.70
Waterloo, IA	13.00
Cathedral City, CA	12.70
Louisville, KY	12.40
Pomona Valley, CA	12.30
No. Hollywood, CA	12.20
Richmond, VA	11.80
Wichita, KS	11.30
Redwood City, CA	11.10
Pikes Peak, CO	11.00
Brisbane, Australia	10.70
Santa Ana, CA	10.40
San Diego, CA	10.30
Atlanta, GA	9.90
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	9.50
New Orleans, LA	9.80
Diablo Valley, CA	9.20

CONGRATULATIONS!

Newly Licensed UFMCC Ministers
(As of August 1st, 1980)

Robert W. Angell
Jennie Bull
Bruce Calder
Judith Dahl
Harry de Jong
Billie Edwards
Robert Galloway
Lynn Guerra
Harlan Hasse
Edward Helms
Bruce Hughes
Sherry A. James
Janis D. Kross
Johannes Kuiper
Alice "Dee" Lamb
Gerald Motto
Edward A. Paul
Sylvia Pennington
Peter J. Riley

HOMOSEXUALS REPORTED AMONG CUBAN REFUGEES

From the Washington Post

WASHINGTON - Thousands of homosexual Cubans came to the United States in the recent sealift, and as many as 20,000 of them are still in refugee camps awaiting resettlement, federal officials confirmed Sunday.

U.S. and private sources said the government is working with national gay rights organizations to find sponsors for the homosexual Cubans. Figures obtained from such organizations as the Metropolitan Community Church and government refugee agencies indicate that homosexuals account for up to 50% of the 40,000 Cuban refugees still in the camps.

But sources cautioned that their figures are estimates at best.

Exactly how and why so many homosexuals apparently found their way to the United States in the refugee flow remained a matter of conjecture Sunday.

"We've had this conversation many times with our staff people here, and we still haven't come up with any solid answers," said Bill Traugh, director of Federal Emergency Management Agency refugee operations at Ft. Chaffee, Ark.

"All we know is that we have a lot of gay people here among 10,179 remaining refugees," Traugh said, although he conceded he could not give "hard figures."

The most common speculation is that Cuban president Fidel Castro wanted to insult the United States by sending this country as many "undesirables," including homosexuals, as possible.

Please, if your Church hasn't pledged to help, challenge our people today and let's do our best. Pastors, please send in the funds as you receive them. Do not hold it until you have collected the entire pledged amount.

Help today to let our Cuban brothers and sisters know that we care!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Rev. Candace Naisbitt is the new District Coordinator, South Central District.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Dick Follett (Miami) and Mr. Jim Mitulski (MCC-NYC) are the new co-chairs of the Hymnody Committee.

CONGRATULATIONS!

NEW MCC CONGREGATIONS

De Colores MCC, Canoga Park, CA
San Gabriel Valley MCC, El Monte, CA
MCC London, Ontario, Canada
New Zealand Maoris MCC
MCC Key West, FL
MCC Las Vegas, NV

CONGRATULATIONS!

Rev. Carolyn "Dusty" Pruitt has been elected the new pastor of MCC Long Beach, CA.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Newly Chartered: MCC Columbus, OH

Re-Chartered Agape MCC, Ft. Worth, TX

Mission Status: MCC Santa Barbara, CA

Newly Approved for Ordination

Brenda Cisneros-Hunt
Karen Lindstrom
Ron Pannell
Jan Weymouth

SPECIAL!

Our first MCC 3 part Christian Education Program and Guide

(For a large or small group):

"What Are We Saying? Communication Skills For Christians."

booklets: \$1.00 apiece accompanying tape: \$4.00

Order from:

Fellowship Offices
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard
Suite 304
Los Angeles, California 90029

KEEPING

NEWS AND NOTES

APRIL/MAY 1980



IN TOUCH

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICE

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029

MARCH

APRIL

TOP 20 TITHES Received by 4/15/80 (Amount in dollars)

TOP 20 TITHES in per capita giving (based on average attendance records as of 4/15/80)

San Diego, CA	\$814.66	Cathedral City, CA	\$15.76
Houston, TX	809.09	Richmond, VA	14.58
San Francisco, CA	697.09	Columbia, SC	12.97
No. Hollywood, CA	623.30	Redwood City, CA	12.10
Portland, OR	586.82	San Diego, CA	11.89
Washington, DC	551.69	Brooklyn, NY	11.65
Denver, CO	541.25	Denver, CO	11.52
Chicago, IL (GSP)	423.08	Wichita, KS	10.86
Wichita, KS	393.00	St. Petersburg, FL	10.45
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	361.12	Albuquerque, NM	9.91
Atlanta, GA	323.52	Waterloo, IA	9.87
Pomona, CA	295.96	Anaheim, CA	9.68
Richmond, VA	277.07	Pomona Valley, CA	9.40
Phoenix, AR	274.01	Atlanta, GA	9.24
Tulsa, OK	259.91	No. Hollywood, CA	9.17
St. Louis, MO	246.09	Vancouver, B.C.	9.09
San Antonio, TX	236.11	Monterey Peninsula, CA	8.91
Baltimore, MD	234.44	San Bernardino, CA	8.65
Philadelphia, PA	228.45	Washington, DC	8.55
Austin, TX	200.02	Louisville, KY	8.47

TOP 20 TITHES Received by 5/15/80 (Amount in dollars)

TOP 20 TITHES in per capita giving (based on average attendance records as of 5/15/80)

Los Angeles, CA	\$1,016.27	Cathedral City, CA	\$15.02
Houston, TX	807.59	Worcester, MA	12.38
San Diego, CA	556.33	Omaha, NE	11.72
Portland, OR	494.97	Princeton, NJ	11.33
Washington, DC	461.61	Minneapolis, MN	11.28
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	429.06	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	10.73
The Valley		San Diego, CA	10.30
No. Hollywood, CA	406.66	Denver, CO	10.18
Kansas City, MO	400.69	Wichita, KS	9.96
Denver, CO	386.75	Louisville, KY	9.88
Chicago, IL (GSP)	346.87	Richmond, VA	9.87
Toronto, Canada	326.19	Waterloo, IA	9.86
Wichita, KS	310.73	Anaheim, CA	9.40
San Jose, CA	251.01	Boulder, CO	9.32
St. Louis, MO	248.91	San Bernardino, CA	8.67
Baltimore, MD	208.48	Ft. Worth, TX	8.46
Tulsa, OK	202.90	Toronto, Canada	8.32
Omaha, NE	201.56	Tulsa, OK	8.18
Vancouver, BC	197.80	Phoenix, AZ	8.10
Cincinnati, OH	175.58	Santa Ana, CA	7.81
Tampa, FL	174.75		

CORRECTION:

Rev. B. J. Mc Daniels is the new
Interim Pastor of MCC - Boise; Rev. Claudia
Vierra is on the staff.

APOLOGIES TO:

Denver (MCC of The Rockies) who
should have been No. 6 in the Top 20
Tithes for February. Their tithe was
\$444.89.

If you are not already sending your news letter to the Fellowship Office, would you please begin doing so. IN UNITY relies on these publications for "Fellowship Family." If you do not have a newsletter, please keep us informed of information which you would like included in IN UNITY.

It would really help us if you could send us your news as soon as the event happens rather than waiting for the publication of your newsletter.

Thank you for your cooperation.

IN UNITY
UFMCC

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., No. 304
Los Angeles, CA 90029

CHANGES:

Rev. Judy Davenport (Ft. Lauderdale) is the new District Coordinator of the Southeast District.

Rev. Valerie Bouchard (Milwaukee) is the new District Coordinator of the Great Lakes District.



CONGRATULATIONS:

Mcc Illiamo is now a chartered church in the UFMCC.

Good Samaritan MCC, Norfolk, VA is now a mission church!



The top giver to Samaritan Theological Institute for the 1979-1980 fiscal year (April-March) is Church of New Hope MCC (Waterloo, IA), which gave monthly pledges amounting to \$466.56 for the year. Second highest was the former MCC Akron (\$400), and third was MCC Washington (\$245.19), which gave in quarterly pledges.

Please remember Samaritan Theological Institute this month! Thanks.



The Commission on the Laity is forming a task force to study the deaconate in UFMCC. We want to serve as a clearing house for program outlines and thoughts on the PREPARATION AND MINISTRY of the deaconate. These will be circulated for the benefit of church groups wanting to build up their deacon programs. For more information and/or for the submission of program outlines, please contact Jean Gralley, THE DEACON PROJECT, 27146 West Six Mile Road, Redford, MI 48240.



The Board of Elders wishes to thank the churches for your prayers for safety during the March on Tallahassee and for the Washington For Jesus March. Full reports on these events will be included in the upcoming issues of In Unity.

MORE WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION
OFFERINGS RECEIVED. THANKS!

Denver, CO

United Kingdom:

London

Kent

Bournemouth

Northampton

Newcastle

Boston, MA (2nd offering)

Salem, OR

Tacoma, WA

Honolulu, HI

Hispana, NY

Philadelphia, PA

Sydney, Australia

Atlanta, GA

Phoenix, AR

Chicago, IL (GSP)

Washington, DC

Austin, TX

Pittsburgh, PA

Sacramento, CA

Dayton, OH

Alpha & Omega, NY (2nd offering)

Raleigh, NC

Adelaide, Australia

Melbourne, Australia

Redwood City, CA (monthly)

MCC in the Valley, CA

San Antonio Deacon's Fund

Vancouver, B.C.

Auckland, New Zealand

San Jose, CA (2nd offering)

Santa Barbara, CA

Seattle, WA

Ft. Myers, FL



Rev. Marge Ragona was invited to and attended (as a Fellowship Representative) the United Nations Religious Leaders Conference on the Decade for Women, the first weekend in May.



Rev. David Farrell is recuperating at home from open heart surgery. Please remember him, Rev. Collins and the San Diego Church (which celebrates its 10th Anniversary next month!) in your prayers.



For information on the upcoming Gay Christian Conference, featuring Dr. Rosemary Reuther and The Gay Christian Team July 18-20, 1980 in Chicago, write:

The Gay Christian

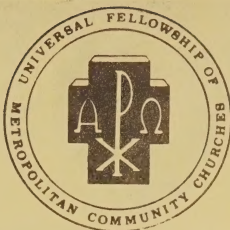
P.O. Box 2392

Chicago, IL 60690

KEEPING

NEWS AND NOTES

FEBRUARY, 1980



IN TOUCH

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICE

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029

WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION OFFERINGS RECEIVED SO FAR. THANKS!

Dallas, TX
Louisville, KY
Los Angeles, CA
Baltimore, MD
Truth Chapel, Tucson, AZ
Good News, Albany, NY
Brisbane, Australia

FOUNDER'S DAY OFFERING. BELATED THANKS!

San Jose, California

NEW GROUPS BEGINNING:

Santa Cruz MCC (Tucson)
MCC Dayton, Ohio
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
MCC Galveston, Texas
Charlotte, North Carolina
Las Vegas, Nevada

TOP 20 TITHES Received by 1/15/80 (Amount in dollars)

San Jose, CA	\$845.34
Houston, TX	693.68
San Francisco, CA	574.52
The Valley,	
No. Hollywood, CA	422.28
Washington, DC	387.88
Portland, OR	383.31
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	307.38
Chicago, IL (GSP)	302.40
Wichita, KS	288.67
Atlanta, GA	232.37
Toronto, Ont.	209.54
Sydney, NSW	186.61
Christ Chapel	
Santa Ana, CA	183.32
Sacramento, CA	167.14
Honolulu, HI	157.85
Adelaide, Australia	153.37
Vancouver, BC	149.50
West Bay, CA	148.75
St. Louis, MO	146.85
Tampa, FL	144.53

TOP 20 TITHES in per capita giving (based on average attendance records as of 1/15/80)

San Jose, CA	\$30.1
Tallahassee, FL	27.2
Adelaide, Australia	17.0
Columbia, SC	13.0
Agape, Ft. Worth, TX	12.9
New Hope, Waterloo, IA	12.4
Jacksonville, FL	12.2
Perth, NSW	11.4
Tacoma, WA	11.0
East Bay, CA	10.6
San Luis Obispo, CA	10.5
Wichita, KS	10.3
New Covenant	
Anaheim, CA	10.0
Omaha, NE	9.1
Oasis, Phoenix, AZ	9.0
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	8.9
Newcastle, England	8.7
The Valley	
No. Hollywood, CA	8.6
Princeton, NJ	8.5
Diablo Valley, CA	8.4

S.T.I.'s newly formed Board of Regents will meet for the first time March 8, 1980.

The Regents are:

Rev. James Sandmire, Chair
Rev. Elder John Hose
Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson
Dr. Alice Kitchen
Dr. Don Jolly
Mr. Gilberto Gerald

Rev. Jose Mojica is leaving on his trip to Central and South America on February 29, 1980. He asks your prayers.

MCC Tampa reports that they had fires set in their church building, February 17, 1980. The damage was minimal. No one was hurt. They ask for our prayers.

ATTENTION!!!

Resumes now being accepted for the position of Chair of the church Hymnody Committee.

Send resume to the Board of Elders, UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029.

Resume should include educational background, work experience, and involvement with MCC.

Rev. Sky Anderson has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches.

Rev. Bob Arthur, Director of the Office of Institutional Ministry has been appointed to the State of California Legislative Commission on Prison Alternatives.

Rev. Art Ramirez to MCC Bourne-mouth, 5 Orchard Wood, Windsor Road, Ascot Berkshire, England.

Rev. Dennis Chappell is the newly elected Pastor of MCC Jacksonville, Florida.

Rev. Cathy Elliott is the newly appointed Worship Coordinator of MCC Little Rock, Arkansas.



Rev. Stan Harris, World Church Extension Officer for New Zealand, has arrived and begun the task of re-establishing the work of MCC in that country. Still pending and stalemating further growth is the need for New Zealand to officially grant a license to perform marriages to the Universal Fellowship. Until this license is granted, we cannot officially exist in that country, nor can any clergy other than Commonwealth citizens enter the country or pastor.

As the entire future of our work in New Zealand depends upon this vital issue, prayers are asked for speedy passage and then for quick granting of a visa for Rev. David Kromer to assume his duties as Interim Pastor, Auckland.

Rev. David Kromer

Commission on Government Structures and Systems. June 12-15, Toronto, Ontario.



Task Force on Inclusive Language will meet July 22-25, Washington, DC.

NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICES:

- Publications/Church Services Order Forms
- Liturgical Calendar
- Quarterly Ministers Report Forms
- List of available ministers
- List of available churches
- Resource info. for churches on "How To Choose a Pastor."
- 1979-1981 UFMCC By-laws
- Up-dated UFMCC TODAY brochure
- Pastor's Guide, Rev. Stan Harris
- NEW: Study Group Resource Packet, free to all study groups only.
- Elders Minutes, January Meeting
- "Iglesia de la Comunidad Metropolitana" (Pamphlet)
- "El Homosexual y la Biblia" (Pamphlet)

Please assist with

CAMBODIAN RELIEF

Toll free: 800 424-5051
Washington: (202) 347-2226

KEEPING

NEWS AND NOTES

JANUARY 1980



IN TOUCH

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICE

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029



The Commission on Government Structures and Systems will meet June 12-15 in Toronto in conjunction with the Eastern Ministers' Conference (June 17-19) and the District Coordinators and Elders Meeting (June 16).

Inclusive Language Task Force will meet in July - Details forthcoming.

Rev. Nancy Wilson will be Coordinator of Project Samaria for 1 year.

General Conference X - Houston, Texas - Shamrock Hotel - August 3-9, 1981

MCC Joplin - Approved for Mission Status.

Additions to Founders Day Offering:

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
London, England
Birmingham, England
Northampton, England

THANK YOU

TOP 20 TITHES Received by 1/15/80 (Amount in dollars)

San Francisco, CA	\$989.90
No. Hollywood, CA	722.68
Washington, DC	623.80
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	559.46
Long Beach, CA	472.35
Good Shepherd, Chicago	422.12
Atlanta, GA	418.74
Wichita, KS	352.62
Tulsa, OK	337.01
San Jose, CA	287.17
Seattle, WA	281.03
Louisville, KY	264.38
Detroit, MI	248.84
Tampa, FL	239.30
Sacramento, CA	225.91
Vancouver, BC, Canada	223.54
San Bernardino, CA	220.02
St. Louis, MO	218.47
Redwood City, CA	198.70
Christ Chapel, Santa Ana, CA	195.78

TOP 20 TITHES in per capita giving (based on average attendance records as of 1/15/80)

Tallahassee, FL	\$17.00
Waterloo, IA	13.21
Princeton, NJ	11.88
Monterey, CA	11.66
Columbia, SC	9.58
Wichita, KS	9.38
Oceanside, CA	9.07
MCC of the Desert, Cathedral City, CA	8.87
San Bernardino, CA	8.53
No. Hollywood, CA	8.32
New Covenant, Anaheim, CA	8.16
Ventura, CA	8.15
Tulsa, OK	8.08
St. Johns, Raleigh, NC	8.05
Emmaus, Miami Beach, FL	7.96
San Jose, CA	7.45
Oasis, Phoenix, AZ	7.26
Costa Mesa, CA	7.25
Iliamo, LA	7.20
Boston, MA	7.06

Board of Elders Ruling on Membership Requirements for UFMCC active Ministers, Chairpersons, and Full-time Employees.

WHEREAS: UFMCC By-laws require MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING to exhibit "...registered attendance, identified financial support, definite service contribution, and expressed interest and loyalty (Article VIA)..." and

WHEREAS: It is the opinion of the Board of Elders that all UFMCC Ministers, Chairpersons, and Full-time Employees should exemplify the qualifications for membership in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Therefore it is the ruling of the Board of Elders that all UFMCC active Ministers, Chairpersons, and Full-time Employees, without exception, meet the UFMCC By-law Requirements for Membership in Good Standing.

MINISTERS ON THE MOVE:

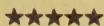
Rev. Lee Carlton - From Jacksonville to Brooklyn, NY.
Rev. Ron Pannell - From New Orleans to Baltimore, MD.
Rev. George Covington - From Ft. Meyers to Los Angeles, CA.
Rev. Stan Harris - From Baltimore to Auckland, New Zealand.
Rev. David Kromer - From Baltimore in transit to New Zealand.

Soon to be available from the Fellowship Offices:

- * UFMCC Today in Spanish
- * Homosexuality and the Bible in Spanish
- * Church forms in Spanish

★★★

CONGRATULATIONS . . .



Director of Race Relations, Ms. Renee McCoy, MCC-New York.



Rev. Val Bouchard has been appointed to the MCAC to replace Rev. Bonnie Daniel.

Hymnody Committee appointees are Rhea Miller, Rev. Joseph Gilbert, Rev. Art Fleschner.

Rev. Brenda Cisneros-Hunt is the new Chair of the Commission on Faith, Fellowship and Order.



Interim Editor of In Unity, Ms. Paula J. Schoenwether (T. Earlye Scott).

John Donnelly has been appointed the new Assistant to the Director of the Office of Institutional Ministry.



The 1st issue of *The (new) Gay Christian* will be out in mid-February. Stay tuned.



Church Services/Publications new arrival: *The Workbook of Living Prayer* by Maxie Dunham. \$3.00 each.

WANTED - Resumes for Chair, Committee on Church Hymnody.

The Board of Elders endorses the March on Tallahassee, FL on April 19th through 27th.

The march is to protest the harassment of our church in Tallahassee as well as to proclaim our Gay Civil Rights. Churches are urged to hold prayer vigils or to join in the march from Jacksonville to Tallahassee.

For more information contact:

The Rev. Joseph Gilbert
Emmaus MCC
401 Washington Ave.
Miami, FL 33139

ATTENTION: Licensed, ordained Ministers and spouses; also, Worship Coordinators and Exhorters: **PLAN AHEAD!** Western Ministers' Conference April 15 - 17, 1980 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Eastern Ministers' Conference June 17 - 19, 1980 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. **REGISTRATION FORMS AND INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING.**

NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICES:

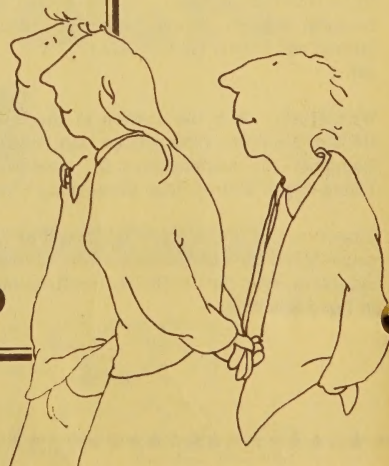
- Publications/Church Services Order Forms
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- List of available ministers
- List of available churches
- Resource info. for churches on "How To Choose a Pastor."
- 1979-1981 UFMCC By-laws
- Up-dated UFMCC TODAY brochure

Does Your Church Have

A UFMCC BULLETIN BOARD ?



It closes the Communication Gap



Touch

keeping in

February 1996

Goal of Building Campaign Within Reach

■ Rev. David Farrell

What began last September as a series of fundraising visits for the UFMCC/MCCLA Capital

COVER STORY

Campaign has become a triumphal "good will tour" of the Fellowship by UFMCC Founder/Moderator, Rev. Elder Troy Perry. In just four short months, September through December, 1995, the 24 MCC's visited have contributed \$246,000 in cash and pledges toward the purchase of the new home for MCC Los Angeles and UFMCC Global Headquarters in West Hollywood, California. Twenty five more MCC's in Florida, Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama, Texas, and North and South Carolina are already scheduled visits from January through March, 1996.

The New Year opened with a flurry of invitations from MCC's for a Capital Campaign visit by Rev. Elder Perry, as word continued to spread about the beneficial effects of these presentations on local churches. The presentation, entitled

"Vision... For The Next Generation"

is updated and personalized for each congregation visited.

The campaign tour visits are provided at no cost to local MCC's. To maintain cost-effectiveness, tour segments are arranged in clusters of MCC churches in a given area. Due to this, and in order to accommodate his other UFMCC obligations, Rev. Perry's only stipulation for a campaign visit is that he gets to choose the date!

The March issue of *Keeping in Touch* will be a real "collector's item"! A full-color issue devoted to the Capital Campaign, it will feature pictures and articles related to the fundraising efforts of our two campaign strategies: MCCLA's "Dare to Dream" and UFMCC's "For The Next Generation," overseen by



Capital Campaign Co-Chairs, Ivy Bottini and myself. In addition to a complete report on the status of our building fund, the

issue will include an updated list of MCC's already visited, with totals for each church, MCC's currently scheduled for visits, and those MCC's who have invited Rev. Perry to visit them and are waiting for tour dates to be assigned. Be sure to look for your MCC on the list!

Plans for reconfiguring and remodeling the complex for our use, to be accomplished in phases over

the next several years, will also be outlined. The real highlight will be the full-color rendering by our architects of the new complex as it will look upon completion. You are going to love this!

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to make steady progress toward our goal, our first-ever major fundraising campaign. For those of you who are awaiting return calls from the campaign about tour visits, potential "major gifts," or other information, I have some good news: As of January 1st, I have been working full time on the Capital Campaign. I hope to clear the backlog of letters and calls very quickly.

Please continue prayers for the success of the campaign. There is still much to do. Our long term goal is to pay off the property over the next three years. Our immediate goal is one million dollars plus closing and move-in costs. God is good. In June 1995 we had nothing... our building fund is now at the \$1 million mark! Of this amount, we have approximately \$700,000 in cash and the balance of in pledges (over 3 years) from our members. By Friday, March 1, we must have an additional \$300,000 cash to complete this transaction!

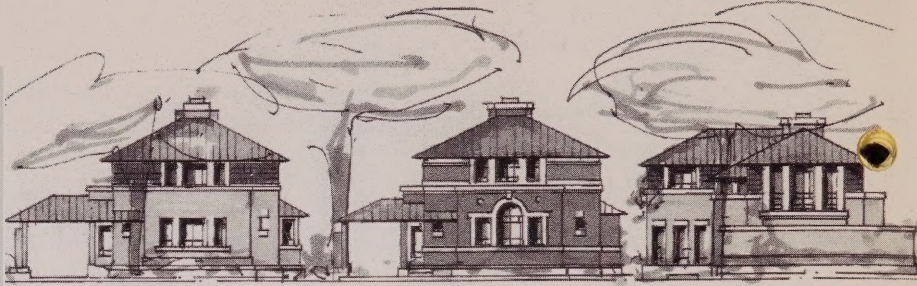
We CAN do this... If we will each do our part: with our faith... our prayers... our gift... our enthusiasm... God knows we can... and God knows we will!

■ **The March issue** will be a full-color issue, devoted to the Capital Campaign and the purchase of the new headquarters building in West Hollywood, California.



Appointments, Awards and Adoptions . . .

Rev. Robert Finch begins his new ministry at MCC of Living Faith in St. Louis, Missouri. ■ **Rev. Don Clarke** will be installed as pastor of Joie De Vivre MCC in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in February. ■ **Rev. Philip Mathews** recently joined the staff of MCC Washington, DC. ■ **Rev. Karen Dickman** has been appointed interim pastor of MCC in Charlottesville, Virginia. ■ **Rev. Christen Chew** has been elected pastor of Vision of Hope MCC, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. ■ **Rev. Ron Helms** was elected pastor of Open Arms MCC in Rochester, New York. ■ **Rev. Dan Lee** resigned as co-pastor of MCC of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania effective January 1. ■ **Rev. Lin Stoner** was installed as pastor of Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids, Michigan, on December 17th. ■ **Rev. Ken Hull, Sr.** has been installed as pastor of Angels of Hope MCC, Green Bay, Wisconsin. ■ **Congratulations to Rev. Roberta Dunn** and her spouse **Beverly Minnix** on the arrival of their daughter **Sarah Foster**, born in China on March 14, 1995, and adopted on October 18th. ■ **Alice** and **Jim Schoen** were honored with the 1995 Faithful Servant of the Year Award by MCC Dayton Parish, Dayton, Ohio. ■ MCC of the Quad Cities, Davenport, Iowa, gave the Kevin Carney Community Service Award to **Connie Venema**. Connie has been active in the community by working, volunteering, raising money, and organizing various projects. In addition, **Joe D.** and **Mary G.** received the Rev. Robert Darst Church Service Award. They are both people of strength working in the background. ■ **Rev. Lynn Hallett**, retired from North Pines MCC, Yelm, Washington, was honored and nominated for a local Kiwanian of the Year award. Hallett is secretary/treasurer of the Kiwanis and has lived in Yelm for 12 years. ■ **Marty Ruggles** received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, Texas, for her many hours of service per week to the church. In honor of her dedication, she received a statue of a mother eagle. ■ **Leslie Johnson** and **Morris Jackson** were named co-executive directors of the MCC Greenville, South Carolina, AIDS Outreach Ministry, effective January 1.



EXCITING DISTRICT OPPORTUNITY

Exciting Project in South Central

Rev. Ed Paul, District Coordinator of the South Central District, has announced a project that he terms, "more exciting than I could have ever dreamed possible."

The district has made plans for a building project on a parcel of land which it owns in Houston, Texas. Through a gift from the estate of long-time district member, Dr. Tom Reveley, the district will be able to build three homes on the parcel, and fund the entire project through the sale of only two of the structures. That will provide a building to house the district offices, free of debt.

"And we may even have additional funds for ministry in the district!" Rev. Paul explained. Plans call for the district office structure to be configured as conventional housing, making it possible to sell it as such in the future.

"I am simply thrilled that we will be able to use this property to both improve our financial standing and better facilitate district ministry."

MINISTRY OF GLOBAL OUTREACH

Struggling for Nigeria

■ Rev. Judy Dahl

The journey to visit our people in Nigeria has been an arduous, frustrating task. In December, plans were finalized to send two people to Nigeria, Mr. Bernie Barbour, the director of Ministry of Diversity In Spiritual Community, and Stephen Fund, the director of World Community Builders. Both Stephen and Bernie have for weeks had their tickets in hand, their malaria pills and shots taken, their itineraries determined, hotel reservations made, and their UFMCC materials packed. They were scheduled to leave January 3, 1996, when they received word that

visas would not be granted without a written invitation from the Nigerian Minister of Internal Affairs. This information did not filter down until three days before Christmas.

Once we were able to reach Rev. Sylvanus Maduka in Nigeria, he was able to go to the appropriate offices to accomplish the beginning phase of this task. One week later, a telephone call from Rev. Maduka informed us that the letter from the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Minister of Health would be telexed to the Nigerian Embassy in Washington, D.C., inviting Bernie and Stephen to Nigeria. We were told this process could take up to two weeks to accomplish.

In the meantime the east coast of the U.S. has been plagued with a blizzard which has shut down government facilities. Gratefully both Bernie and Stephen are "on call" and willing and ready to go as soon as all the visas come through. Like so many of us, they have a real passion to see this trip through. Like so many of our churches and individuals in MCC, we know the importance of this trip. We want so much to make this connection with our people in Nigeria. It has been so long in coming.

This is one of those times when we "shall renew our strength... we shall mount up with wings as eagles... we shall run and not grow weary... we shall walk and not faint." We wait upon God to see this through with us.

UFMCC ON THE NET

Bridging the Distance

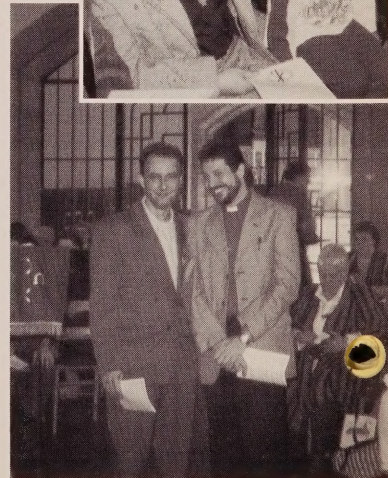
MCC'ers world-wide are getting together on Tuesday evenings, at 9 p.m. EST to chat on the Internet Relay Chat

Channel #MCC. Testimonies, sharing prayers, exchanging technological and theological ideas and generally building community have been the hallmark of the channel since its inception in November, 1995. All people on-line are welcome to join on #MCC. For more information, please e-mail ufmcc@trends.ca or visit the Web Site at <http://www/trends.ca/ufmcc>.

MINISTRY OF GLOBAL OUTREACH

Satellites to Europe

During the past year, Rev. Roy Beane, the European District coordinator, and Rev. Judy Dahl, the administrator for Global Outreach, have been discussing the possibility of working together to develop UFMCC outreach to other countries in Europe. The European District is geographically located in the best position to reach out, but currently lacks the financial



resources to develop additional outreach. Global Outreach is that in the denomination which is responsible for the development of ministry in countries not connected to a district. But because it is housed in Los Angeles, it is not as geographically accessible to Europe as those who reside in the European District.

Rev. Dahl traveled to the European District Conference in Kent, England, in November to discuss the possibility of linking the European District and Global Outreach in a collaborative effort to work with new countries in Europe. This merger-like arrangement took on a new look and new life at this conference. After considerable thinking, meeting, and discussing with the District Committee, it was agreed to name Rev. Caroline Blanco as the person to facilitate the Global Outreach Satellite from her office in Paris, France. Her partner and the newly elected assistant district coordinator, Catherine Chemarin will work with her to liaison information to the European District Committee. Catherine will also work with Rev. Dahl and Rev. Blanco in assisting with their communication and translation needs as they occur between the Satellite and Global Outreach.

Rev. Blanco is involved in the Gay and Lesbian European Alliance and has been at the forefront of leadership in the gay Christian movement in Europe for many years. She speaks several languages and the geographic proximity of France to countries where MCC is not yet in existence creates an excellent framework for an outreach satellite.

Spain has been selected as the first area for planned strategic growth. Rev. Blanco was born in Spain, speaks Spanish fluently and has a number of connections from which to begin an MCC outreach. During past months, Rev. Dahl has received several letters of inquiry concerning the possibility of

■ **Above Left**—Rev. Blanco shares a moment with a young attendee at the European District Conference. **Lower Left**—District Coordinator Rev. Roy S. Grey and Rev. Neil Thomas stand in the chapel at St. Joseph's Chapel at the Aylesford Priory in Kent, site of the European conference.

A FELLOWSHIP OF CONGREGATIONS

MCC Pittsburgh

Pastor: Rev. Roberta Dunn

Background: Rev. Dunn began her church life at MCC Pittsburgh in 1975. She was a founding member, served as student clergy, and participated in the church's satellite outreach project in Morgantown, West Virginia prior to becoming pastor in 1986.



Staff: Part-time administrator, paid musician

Gender Mix: 60% male, 40% female

Members: 121

Meeting Arrangements: Rent space from other church, meet on Sunday evenings.

Greatest Ministry Challenge: Constant struggle to maintain a presence and to reach the lesbian/gay community in an extremely conservative region.

Accomplishment Most Proud Of: Witnessing the transformation of individual lives.

Recent Success: The relocation to a new worship space, more visible, more accessible.

Top Future Priority: Creating greater visibility within the community through appearances at functions and events, and working with community agencies and other resource groups.

If I Could Change One Thing About UFMCC: I would focus more energy on grassroots needs, create more support resources for districts and local churches. Recent progress in that direction is great.

a UFMCC presence in Spain. In addition, Rev. Stuart Harrison from Bournemouth, England plans to move to Spain in late 1996. It is his hope and prayer to develop a retreat facility on land he acquired near Barcelona. Rev. Harrison has worked as a city planner, is learning to speak Spanish, and has a life-long dream of developing this ministry in Spain.

The European District Conference was held at St. Joseph's Chapel at the 13th-Century Aylesford Priory, and was attended by over 100 conference registrants.

MINISTRY OF GLOBAL OUTREACH

Launching a Satellite

In order for a Satellite office in Paris to communicate more efficiently and frequently with Global Outreach in Los Angeles, we're looking for a couple of donors to assist us in providing computer upgrades for the Paris office computer. It's a 286 PC. We need to upgrade it to at least a 386 and to purchase Windows. We want to communicate by e-mail and this is presently not possible.

If you can assist with the software, hardware or money to make this a reality, please contact Rev. Judy Dahl at UFMCC Headquarters.

TECHNOLOGY AND HIV/AIDS

AIDS Ministry on the Net

Selected UFMCC AIDS

Ministry resources are now available on the Internet, as well as a bi-weekly column from Rev. Steve Pieters. Three pamphlets, *HIV/AIDS: Is It God's Judgement?*, *Spiritual Strength for Survival*, and *Choose Life* can be accessed at The Body, Body Health Resources Corporation's WEB site. In addition, Rev. Steve Pieters, field director of UFMCC AIDS Ministry, will be a regular columnist for The Body.

The URL for The Body's WEB site is:
<http://www.thebody.com>. Rev.

Pieters' column can be found under "Insight," and UFMCC AIDS Ministry pamphlets can be accessed under "Religion and HIV/AIDS."

The Body is cyberspace's first one-stop shop for reaching AIDS experts, organizations and publications worldwide.

"We want to do more than inform. We want to create a global community for people concerned with AIDS," said Jamie Marks, founder of The Body. He hopes that The Body will be the first place online where anyone concerned with AIDS will look for resources dealing with its medical, cultural, legal, and political aspects.

"There are some AIDS resources online, but they're fragmented, and you really have to know where to look. The Body has everything in one place," Marks said.

UFMCC AIDS Ministry joins a number of other content providers for The Body, including the AIDS Action Council, the American Foundation for AIDS Research, the Gay Men's Health Crisis, Johns Hopkins University AIDS Service, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Treatment Action Group.



DOING JUSTICE

Rev. Mel White

When I still looked good in short pants and a bare chest, those many moons ago, my family camped on the Merced River in Northern California. I can still remember lying on a grassy bank in the hot sunshine

staring at silvery, speckled trout swimming in the crystal-clear waters. One year, we were horrified to discover that a factory upstream had poured tons of toxic pollutants into the water. The clean, unclouded current had turned murky yellow and smelled of dead fish and chemical sludge. Fortunately, the people who lived on that river mobilized their forces. They used petitions, lawyers, a boycott, and the ballot box to save their beloved stream.

As your minister of justice, I have to say it again: The souls of our various nations are being polluted by a toxic cloud of ignorance and intolerance against God's gay and lesbian children that leads directly to suffering and to death for the people we serve. The primary polluters are Catholic and protestant leaders so committed to their current anti-homosexual course that they can't deal honestly with the growing mountain of evidence that homosexual orientation is not a choice or something to be changed, but a gift from God to be accepted, celebrated, and lived with integrity.

Are there pastors, priests, or politicians in your town who pollute the environment with their own toxic flow of ignorance and intolerance? Take your stand against the poison that cripples and kills our sisters and brothers. When you hear voices poisoning the minds and hearts of your neighbors, copy or tape the untruth to have an accurate record. Then call, write, or visit the polluter. Share the truth in love. If the polluter refuses to hear you (in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-17), then, write a letter to your newspaper editor, call your radio and television stations, the mayor's office, the ACLU, the FCC, your local ministerial association, the gay press, the good folks at P-FLAG, and BCS41@aol.com or GLAAD. Mobilize a network of concern! Do something, anything. Justice is at stake.

In 1996, I'm on my way back to Virginia Beach, to Lynchburg, and to Colorado Springs. We have to take a stand against these primary sources of international toxic pollution. Join me in this journey towards justice. Take your stand. Too many souls are being crippled. We cannot be silent while poisonous clouds of untruth spew forth. It's our stream, too. Let's work to see that the water turns crystal-clear again.

God, Hear Our Prayers

Rev. Karen Gregg and her partner Sue Kirkland and their 5 children would like us all to pray with them for God's healing of Karen's cancer.

■ **Rev. Ed Paul** is currently in the Philippines visiting MCC Manila. He was asked to follow up from his trip last year to help facilitate the work of new pastoral leader **Edgar Mendoza** and to continue building relationships with the UFMCC. ■ **Rev. Juan Francisco Barrera**, the Pastor of El Tamarindo ICM in the Dominican Republic has begun a tutoring school for children in their village. They have 44 children attending reading and writing classes! Please keep the success of this vital new ministry in your prayers. ■ **Rev. Elder Hong Tan, Ravi Verma** and **Rev. Judy Dahl** have travelled to South Africa to meet with churches there seeking UFMCC affiliation. Please keep them in your prayers! ■ Prayers are requested for **Rev. Tom Bohache** and his family as they grieve the passing of his mother on Christmas morning. Notes of sympathy can be sent to Tom at MCC Northern Virginia, 7245 Lee Highway, Falls Church, Virginia 22046. ■ Keep in prayer the family and friends of **Rev. Geoffrey Walker**, retired UFMCC clergy in Sydney, Australia, who died on January 7, 1996. Geoff died in his sleep after many years of illness and pain. ■ Prayer is requested for **Rev. Jeanne Teague** and her family as her father passed away in November. ■ Prayers are requested for the upcoming General Council meetings from March 11 through March 19 at the Burbank Hilton in Burbank, California.

LIVING FULLY WITH HIV/AIDS

CD of Hope

Positive Voices, a chorus comprised solely of individuals who are HIV positive, is one of the many programs of the music ministry of the Cathedral of Hope MCC of Dallas, Texas.

Positive Voices was founded in August, 1994 by Jackson Myers. On December 1, 1995, they distributed their first CD, "Windows of Hope," released to coincide with World AIDS Day. Their music's primary focus is the theme of hope, strength, encouragement, and faith.

"God-given, hope-filled music is what furthers us in our journey. We pray that the music of Positive Voices will lead you toward the hope that will sustain you through all the many diseases of life," says Jackson Myers, who continues to direct Positive Voices.

The CD is available through Sources of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Post Office Box 35466, Dallas, Texas 75235. Phone 214/351-1901, 800/501-HOPE, or fax 214/351-6099.

IT'S BEEN JUST GRAND

D. J. Retires

D. J. Bowling, mailing assistant for the UFMCC for six years, has decided to retire and move to Texas. D.J. has been an integral part of the headquarters office as she handled the collating, stuffing, labeling, posting, and other areas of the mailing room. We thank D.J. and her spouse Jean Kolterman, who has been a great volunteer, for all their hard work and support, and wish them God's many blessings as they leave us. We will miss you!



UFMCC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

UFMCC Seeks Volunteers

General Conference XVII saw the adoption of major changes in UFMCC's structures and systems. One of the components of this shift was the development of a process for the determination of district boundaries, the establishment of a "geographic

review board" to facilitate and oversee this process.

The Board of Elders is looking for qualified volunteers to serve on this board. The qualifications are: excellent analytical and communication skills; ability to mediate and negotiate; understanding of UFMCC; experience in the needs of local churches; bilingual ability is helpful; local cultural awareness. Please send resume to Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, Clerk of the Board of Elders, at UFMCC Headquarters.

STRATEGIC GROWTH INITIATIVE UPDATE

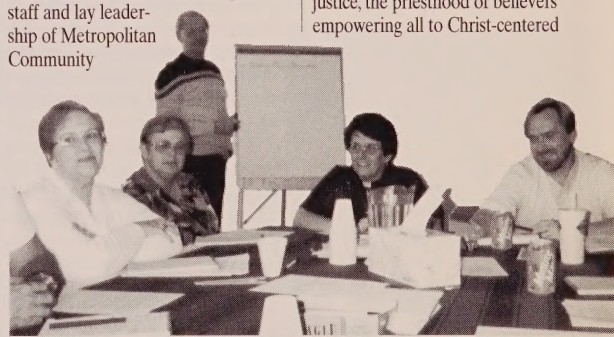
Building Upon Our Strengths

■ Rev. Elder Don Eastman

Five target churches have now begun to plan for future growth through the UFMCC's Strategic Growth Initiative.

These Metropolitan Community Churches in New York City, Tampa, Florida, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Chicago, Illinois and Hinsdale, Illinois, will be joined later this year by other MCC's in Portland, Oregon, Sydney, Australia and Los Angeles, as the first round of target churches reaching out to double within the decade. Here's an update on the work of Metropolitan Community Church of Tampa.

On January 11th to 15th, the pastoral staff and lay leadership of Metropolitan Community



■ **The process** of strategic growth requires a church to perform a thorough inventory of its strengths and weaknesses. The leadership of MCC Tampa met with Rev. Elder Don Eastman to formulate a plan to accomplish its goals for growth and maturity.



Church of Tampa, met with Rev. Elder Donald Eastman to engage in a process of strategic planning toward the goal of becoming a congregation of 1,000 within the next decade. During the eight-year pastorate of Rev. Karen Ducham, this vibrant church has effectively passed previous plateaus of 100 and 200 members, and is now moving beyond the "200 Barrier." In mid-1995, the congregation moved from its old location, one of the earliest church buildings owned by an MCC, to a new facility conveniently located in central Tampa near a major freeway. This local congregation now finds itself well prepared to launch a new era of outreach and inclusion that will highly impact the dynamic, growing Tampa Bay area.

Strategic planning begins with careful consideration of a church's values, mission and vision for its future. The leaders of MCC Tampa first discussed the most cherished principles and beliefs that have guided the congregation. Values inclusion over exclusion, God's unconditional love for all, love and forgiveness of self and others, the right of every person to dignity and justice, the priesthood of believers empowering all to Christ-centered

Profile

Members

Acts of

Worship

Excellent

Good

Fair

Poor

Unacceptabl

Music

Excellent

Good

Fair

Poor

Unacceptabl

CLASSIFIED

24 HENRY GUESTHOUSE is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 1-800-900-5686; 415-864-5686; Fax: 415-864-0406.

NOW AVAILABLE: UFMCC Bylaws, revised at General Conference XVII, July 1995, are now available from the UFMCC Resource Center for \$1.50 each plus shipping. Please call 213/464-5100 to place your order.

for Strategic Growth

of MCC Tampa provided information and rated the performance of different their church, to be used in a strategic plan:

Services	Current Income	Demographics
	Under 20 M	Male
	10 - 20 M	Female
	20 - 30 M	African-Am.
	30 - 50 M	Caucasian
	Over 50 M	Hispanic
		Asian/Pacific
		Native Am.
		Other
Program	Age	Church Background
	18 - 25	Catholic
	26 - 35	Baptist
	36 - 40	Episcopal
	41 - 50	Presbyterian
	Over 50	Methodist
		Pentecostal
		Lutheran
		Other

ministry and a commitment to community outreach are the core beliefs and principles held by this church.

Upon this foundation, the group produced a clear mission statement and reached consensus on a powerful vision to become a church of 1,000, recognized as a leader in winning understanding and acceptance of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons in the Tampa community-at-large.

With a clearer sense of direction for the future of MCC Tampa, its leaders then able to take an inward look at the church, considering both its strengths and weaknesses. Prior to this planning meeting, 243 congregants had completed a survey questionnaire. Results provided a wealth of demographic and evaluative data. Additionally, Senior Pastor Ducham and her staff had assembled an extensive needs assessment study to inform the planning process. One immediate picture from this information is of a local church with very high-quality

ministries. Strengths quickly became obvious. For instance, respondents rated the quality of the worship services very highly. In the words of one leader, "It feels good to hear we are doing a lot of things right." The group was also able to identify some areas of weakness where improvement was needed.

Armed with this information, local church leaders were now able to identify strategic issues which would impact the church's ability to achieve its vision. Strategic issues are challenges that ask, "Should we do something different to move closer to our vision?" Such an issue should build upon the church's strengths and focus on something that is not presently being done. It could involve an entirely new program or activity, or might be a substantial improvement of an existing activity.

The leadership of MCC Tampa selected three strategic issues around which projects will be developed to help achieve its vision: excellence in music, aggressive community outreach, and a comprehensive stewardship program. Each of these issues builds upon the strengths of the church's present ministry and leadership. Three project teams will now build strategies for change in each of these areas.

The leaders of MCC Tampa have set an initial goal of reaching 360 in worship by the end of 1997, using projects for change in each of the three targeted areas. At the same time, this congregation will continue its course of high quality ministry in worship, care groups and outreach. Pastor Ducham comments "We now have a much stronger sense of direction, and there is very strong ownership of this direction. We are working together as a team."

BENCHMARK CELEBRATION

Samaritan Marks 25th Anniversary

On Friday, December 1, 1995, during a celebratory gathering of Samaritan staff, trustees, UF MCC leadership, supporters and friends, the winning ticket of Samaritan Institute's 25th Anniversary raffle was drawn in Lewisville, Texas. The winner of the raffle is Larry A. Fortune of Jacksonville, Florida. The winning ticket was sold by Rev. Marie Fortune. The award, a trip for two anywhere in the world where American Airlines flies, was donated by Cynthia Marquart, the President of Envoy Travel in Chicago, Illinois.

THE CHURCH AND HIV/AIDS

Sydney Honors Volunteers

A glittering evening at Paddington Town Hall was the occasion for the First Annual New South Wales State World AIDS Day Community Service Awards presentation. Among the recipients were four members of MCC Sydney, who were recognized for their contributions in assisting people living with HIV/AIDS who are in need. Stuart Dunkley has dedicated his retirement to caring for those who are terminally ill, particularly those with HIV/AIDS. Irwin Diefenthaler has worked for several years as manager of the Out of the Closet Emporium, which is a second-hand shop that raises money for the church's projects and provides furniture and household items free to people with HIV/AIDS. Colin Wiseman is employed by the church as the coordinator of the Manna Pantry, which provides free food for people with HIV/AIDS who sometimes cannot make their disability pension stretch. Rev. Greg Smith, the pastor, and district coordinator for Australia, has spent a large amount of his ministry in organizing needed services through the church. Greg has often been the person who sees the need and organizes to fill it.

These awards are recognition of not only individuals in the church, but also of MCC Sydney's ongoing work in the area of assisting people living with HIV/AIDS. In addition to the Manna

FEBRUARY CHRONICLES

Top 20 Tithes

December 1995

1. Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas \$7,655.57
2. Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale \$2,941.18
3. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston \$2,855.25
4. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg \$2,182.13
5. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville \$1,836.36
6. MCC Washington, Washington \$1,824.98
7. Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton \$1,569.10
8. MCC New York, New York \$1,441.05
9. MCC San Francisco, San Francisco \$1,242.15
10. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta \$1,217.00
11. MCC Los Angeles, Los Angeles \$1,205.11
12. MCC Tampa, Tampa \$1,057.54
13. MCC Huntsville, Huntsville \$1,048.76
14. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach \$1,012.45
15. All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis \$946.36
16. St. John's MCC, Raleigh \$833.34
17. Harvest MCC, Denton \$801.13
18. Holy Cross MCC, Pensacola \$763.15
19. Agape MCC, Fort Worth \$759.07
20. MCC Key West, Key West \$756.95

(These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.)

Top 20 Per Capita

December 1995

1. MCC Huntsville, Huntsville \$42.29
2. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee \$35.45
3. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo \$30.97
4. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis \$28.57
5. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach \$28.44
6. Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton \$26.91
7. MCC Pueblo, Pueblo \$26.17
8. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City \$24.36
9. New Life MCC, Charlotte \$23.16
10. MCC Los Angeles, Los Angeles \$22.95
11. MCC Family in Christ, Fort Collins \$20.93
12. Harvest MCC, Denton \$20.75
13. MCC New York, New York \$20.33
14. Spirit Song MCC, Little Rock \$20.30
15. Pikes Peak MCC, Colorado Springs \$20.16
16. Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana \$20.11
17. MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood \$19.71
18. Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, Des Moines \$19.55
19. Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield \$19.51
20. MCC of the Palm Beaches, Palm Beach \$18.94

(These figures reflect the average individual weekly offerings to the local church.)



Arlington, Armadillo, and Alabama . . .

MCC Diablo Valley, Walnut Grove, California has moved into new quarters at Walnut Creek United Methodist Church. ■ **MCC of the Ozarks** in Fayetteville, Arkansas needs choir robes and other vestments. If any church would like to help them out with surplus, call Paul Smith at 501/444-9692

■ A group of sixteen people in **Rapid City, South Dakota** are ready to affiliate with UFMCC as a mission. They have a Native American pastoral leader who has been serving the group and is investigating transferring his credentials to UFMCC. ■

Congratulations to **Trinity MCC**, Arlington, Texas, as they move another giant step closer to completing their own church home. They unanimously selected a designer and a builder. ■

Congratulations to **Wichita Falls MCC**, Texas, as they dedicated their new building on January 14, with special guest Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson. ■ In one of the most expensive cities in Europe to purchase property, **MCC Paris**, France, with 100 members, has purchased their own church building which is a store front. ■ **Excel of the Armadillo** reports they had an entirely Spanish-speaking table at their recent weekend retreat. A new team is currently being birthed in Mexico. ■ Praises to **St. John's MCC** in Raleigh, North Carolina on their 20th Anniversary in February. Weekend highlights include a concert February 23 featuring Rev. Delores Berry, David & Jane, Randa McNamara and Marsha Stevens. ■ **Jesus MCC**, Indianapolis, Indiana, has begun a new Clown Ministry for their church and community, with a weekly ministry at Parkview Nursing Home. ■ Following a gift from Mark Chattaway, a member of the Bloomsbury Baptist Church, London, England (who for the last 8 years has hosted **MCC North London**) a series of three half-page advertisements has been placed in a U.K. national lesbi/gay publication. The advertisements have telephone, mail and e-mail information, voice mail and web site. Found on:

<http://www.bluenet.co.uk/blue/christmas>. ■ **Covenant MCC**, Birmingham, Alabama, recently said "Yes, let's buy!" That was the decision of members present at their congregational meeting concerning the purchase of a former Birmingham wedding chapel facility.

Pantry and Out of the Closet Emporium, the church provides Sunday meals to those in need. These meals have engendered a reputation for being quite sumptuous, consisting of appetizer, entree, and dessert. In addition, meals are offered on special days such as Christmas and Easter for those with no family ties. For those with no family through rejection or distance, these meals offer celebration and community support.

Memorial services are held on the first Sunday of each month to celebrate the lives of those who have died. At the service, memorial banners are displayed (a mini-quilt) and a memorial candle burns throughout.

MCC Sydney is often called "The AIDS Church," by some as a put-down. Rev. Smith observes, "We are proud of that name. Why do we feed people? Because they are hungry. This is the work that God calls us to do."

ANOTHER RECORD SUCCESS

Christmas Eve at Toronto

Over 3,000 worshippers gathered at Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall for MCC Toronto's tradition of Christmas Eve, the largest and most successful ever. The official number admitted by the box office was 2,910, with standing room only. More than 400 others were turned away for lack of space. The hundred-voice Festival Choir and other individuals on stage brought the attendance figure to over 3,000.

This is MCC Toronto's sixth annual service. Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall and other city digni-

■ **Above** - Rev. Jay Neely, GLAD district coordinator, Rev. Maureen Killoran, keynote speaker, and Rev. Frank Scott, pastor of MCC Ashville.

Below - MCC Toronto packed 'em in again for their annual Christmas Eve service.

A FELLOWSHIP OF CONGREGATIONS

Christ Covenant MCC

Pastor: Rev. Glenna Shepherd

Background: Rev. Shepherd was one of the founders of Christ Covenant in 1992.

Staff: Part-time administrator, part-time musician

Gender Mix: 70% female, 30% male

Members: 136

Meeting Arrangements: Rent converted office space which seats 160. Meets Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings.

Greatest Ministry Challenge: Facility, facility, facility! You can't grow without a facility, you can't afford a facility until you grow. Christ Covenant has just begun a building fund.

Accomplishment Most Proud Of: Successfully crossing the plateaus from small to mid-size, and watching the church mature into a lay-centered organization with appropriate layers of responsibility.

Recent Success: Impressive amount of programming for the size of the church. Successful small group program, educational programs, well-developed music program including a band, children and youth ministry, and active community outreach.

Top Future Priority: Facility, facility, facility!

If I could Change One Thing About UFMCC: I would emphasize the need for the Fellowship to educate people in conflict resolution, and urge a commitment to a better process in this area. To focus on the destructive behaviors that undermine ourselves as individuals and churches.

taries were present at the event.

"This year was so successful that we're planning to have a second service next year," commented Pastor Rev. Brent Hawkes.

UFMCC DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

GLAD District Conference

Members and delegates of MCC churches in the Gulf Lower Atlantic District gathered during November in Ashville, North Carolina, to hold their annual district conference. Keynote speaker of the event was Rev. Maureen Killoran, pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ashville, North Carolina. Rev. Killoran shared warm accolades and affirmations of MCC's work in the world.



At the same time she challenged the UFMCC to "get out of the [office]." She challenged those present to let others from different sectors of the faith journey, who are willing comrades, work alongside each one of us in our struggle for human rights.

"Sometimes when people struggle as members of the inside group, they can miss the love and support of some perceived as outsiders." She asked, "What can you see as a spectator to a huddle?" She reminded delegates and church leaders that, "we're not alone. Some spectators want to help us win the game!"

HONORING AN INNOVATOR

Rev. Cherry Leaves UFMCC Staff

Rev. Kittredge Cherry will be leaving the staff of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan



Community Churches due to illness. Kit has served as the public relations associate and ecumenical

officer since January 1, 1991. In this position, she has worked to continually upgrade *Keeping in Touch*, organized the Hands Around the God Box demonstration at Stonewall 25,

spoke at 1994 International Lesbian Conference, and accompanied Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson to two World Council of Churches meetings. Kit helped Rev. Wilson establish ties with South African congregations and spearheaded the publicity for the recent reprint of Rev. Troy Perry's new book *The Lord is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay*. Despite this busy schedule, she found time to co-edit the book *Equal Rites*, a comprehensive compilation of rituals for the gay and lesbian community. Kit proved to be a valiant pioneer. One of her most notable innovations was introducing the UFMCC staff to the Internet.

The chief ecumenical officer for the Fellowship, Rev. Wilson describes Kit as "a woman with a brilliant mind and a deep commitment to ecumenical work." She states "I've learned a great deal from Kit and thoroughly enjoyed working with her. I ask the Fellowship to continue to pray for Kit's full recovery. I'm certain that God has more plans for Kit!"

Kit has been suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome since January, 1995. She will be sorely missed, especially by the staff. If you would like to send a card to Rev. Cherry, sent it to UFMCC Headquarters. Kit wants everyone to know how much she has appreciated all the support she felt from friends throughout the world. "I'll never forget organizing such events as Hands Around the God Box, and the Wedding March on Washington. I hope my work will contribute to a more just, more compassionate future."

A FELLOWSHIP OF HISTORY



1977: The First White House Meeting

Recently, Rev. Troy Perry was invited to participate in the White House Conference on HIV and AIDS, hosted by President Bill Clinton.

But that wasn't the first time Rev. Perry has been a guest in Washington D.C. In 1977, fourteen members of lesbian and gay communities nationwide met for the National Gay Task Force White House Conference.

Held during the Carter administration, it was coordinated by Midge Costanza, assistant to President Carter for public liaison. The purpose of the gathering was to express grievances to administration officials about the condition of gay and lesbian rights throughout the country. The meeting garnered considerable national publicity to further to cause of rights for gays and lesbians.



NOW AVAILABLE! AND IT'S FREE!

The new UFMCC **Resource Center Catalog** is now available at no cost. It features new books by MCC authors, materials for gay and lesbians Christians, and many new offerings!

Name _____

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City, State, Prov., Zip _____

Resource Center 5300 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 304, Los Angeles 90029
Phone 213/464-5100 Fax 213/464-2123

KEEPING IN TOUCH—FEBRUARY 1996

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to: *Keeping in Touch*, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd, #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; (213) 464-5100. Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.

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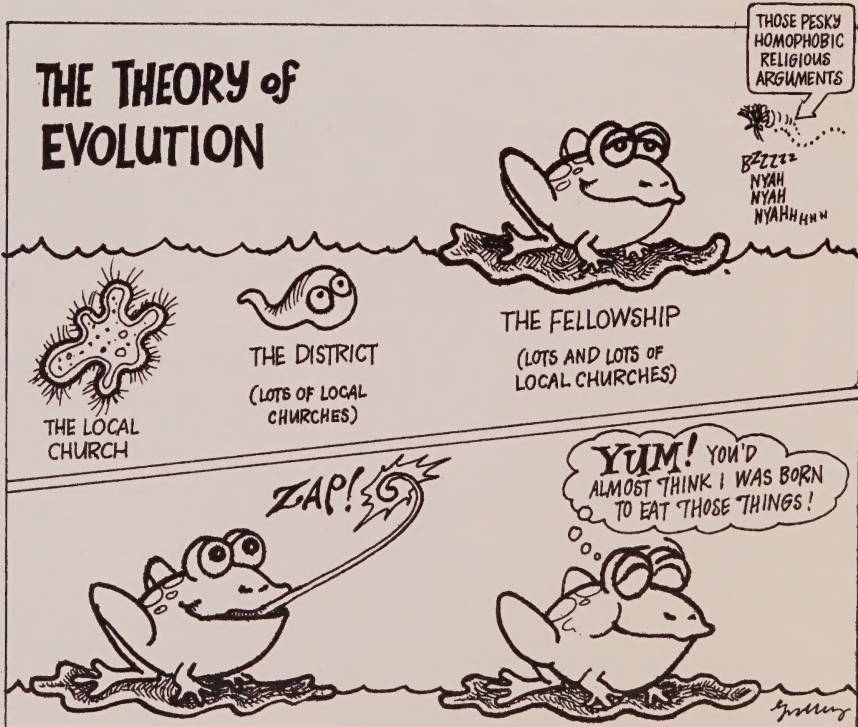
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